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the jersey devil and his trans-masculinity

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the jersey devil & his
trans-masculinity

Silas R. Melvin

your mother said, 'i do not want him.
let him be a devil," and so you were:
 grew wings and horns and
too big to fit inside the smallness of
human rituals. you were cast from
eden pre-birth. you scare the locals
with your grieving cry, your only-one
 mating calls in the night.
townsfolk lock doors and clog chimneys.

your mother said, 'i do not want him.
let him be a devil," and the prophecy
 was self-fulfilling. you heard
her rejection and became rejected.
you didn't exist until you were named.
You were named and the mass
hysteria followed.